

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK MEDIA TREATMENT OF ECEVIT VISIT TO THE U.S.

1. FORMER TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

RECEIVED BUT PERFUNCTORY FACTUAL COVERAGE IN THE GREEK MEDIA UNTIL THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE, FOLLOWING WHICH PRESS PLAY BLOSSOMED INTO FRONT PAGE TREATMENT. THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT UNLEASHED A WAVE OF SPECULATION AS TO THE MOTIVATION. THE GREEK PRESS, LABELLING THE ATTEMPT A "PROVOCATION", CONCOCTED EVERY POSSIBLE THEORY. A GENERAL THEME RUNNING THROUGHT THE STORIES WAS THAT "DARK FORCES" WERE BEHIND THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO KILL ECEVIT AND THAT IT HAD BEEN STAGED IN ORDER TO IMPEDE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. SOME REPORTS STATED THAT SIKOPETRITIS WAS AN EOKA B AGENT AND OTHERS THAT HE WAS ACTING FOR TURKISH AGENTS IN THE U.S. NOR WAS U.S. INVOLVEMENT RULED OUT. LEFTIST OPPOSITION TA NEA, FOR INSTANCE, ASKED IN

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BANNER HEADLINES IF, AS SUGGESTED IN NICOSIA, THE

ATTEMPT WERE NOT THE WORK OF THE CIA.

2. ECEVIT'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ALSO CAUSE FOR CRITICAL COMMENT. THE PRESS COMPLAINED THAT THE TURKISH VISITOR WAS BEING ACCORDED EXTRA SPECIAL ATTENTION WHICH REFLECTED THE PRO-TURKISH ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. GROUSED PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS IN ITS HEADLINE "YESTERDAY FORD AND KISSINGER RECEIVED ECEVIT OFFICIALLY AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS A PREMIER". COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR'S AVGHI EDITORIALIZED THAT THE "GRAND RECEPTION" GIVEN TO ECEVIT BY THE AMERICANS WAS THE U.S. WAY OF PAYING ITS "DEBT" TO THE FORMER TURKISH PREMIER WHO IS EVEN MORE "HAWKISH" THAN DEMIREL. AFTER EXPRESSING ITS OWN INDIGNATION, THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE "POLITICAL THEMES" SUGGESTED THAT OPPOSITION UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER LEADER, GEORGE MAVROS, BE SENT TO THE U.S. TO SEE HOW THE AMERICANS WOULD RECEIVED HIM IN COMPARISON TO THE WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED ECEVIT.

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